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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,846	11/26/2003	Dean Foote	LAMA122071	9688
26389	7590	08/12/2004	EXAMINER	
CHRISTENSEN, O'CONNOR, JOHNSON, KINDNESS, PLLC 1420 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347			PATEL, VISHAL A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3676

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/723,846	FOOTE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Vishal Patel	3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Canada on 11/28/02. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2413112 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Line 1, "a seal configuration" should be changed to --a seal assembly--.

Line 2, "sidewall" should be changed to --sidewall--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris (US. 3,144,162).

Morris discloses a seal configuration comprising a body (10) adapted to contain internal pressure (pressure in opening 11) having an opening with inwardly tapered peripheral sidewall (tapered wall where seal 22 contacts). A closure (13) adapted to close the opening, the closure having an attachment portion larger than the opening (this is the case since the opening is closed by the closure having 16) and an axially projecting stopper (portion of 13 after 16) having an endless peripheral seal groove (groove 17 having 22 and 19) extending in spaced relation around

the axis in which is positioned a peripheral seal adapted to sealingly engage the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation, thereby conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall (the seal 22 conforms to the tapered sidewall).

A backing ring (19) of pliable memory retaining material positioned between the peripheral seal groove and the attachment portion of the closure. The backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation and conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure (this is the case since 19 is an anti-extrusion ring), such that when the peripheral seal deforms (as seen in figure 2 the seal 22 deforms) in response to an increase in internal pressure within the body and extrusion gaps begin to form between the attachment portion of the closure and the body, the peripheral seal is extruded against the backing ring which deforms to prevent the peripheral seal from entering the extrusion gap (the ring 19 expands).

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Evans, Miyagishima et al, Walker, Palasthy and Ferrari et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-8495. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 PM to 4:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann, can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168. Technology Center 3600 Customer Service is available at 703-308-1113. General Customer Service numbers are at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-9000. Fax Customer Service is available at 703-872-9325.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Art Unit: 3676

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:** 703-872-9326, for formal communications for entry before Final action; or,  
703-872-9327, for formal communications for entry after Final action.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park Five, 2451 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, Virginia, Seventh Floor (Receptionist suite adjacent to the elevator lobby).

VP  
August 7, 2004



Vishal Patel  
Patent Examiner  
Tech. Center 3600